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Virtue, the Way of God

Sule Yilmaz
St. John Fisher College

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Virtue, the Way of God

Abstract

In lieu of an abstract, below is the essay's first paragraph.

"God has created mankind in so many various forms. He has placed us all under one universe, this must be a sign. If He willed He could have created one form of man, this must be a sign indeed for those who are seeking. He has embraced all regardless of race, religion, physical or psychological attributes, and He has set us an example to do the same. Those that do are certainly the virtuous of all. He has created us equal, yes, He has granted some more than others perhaps in beauty, intelligence, or better manners, or more money and so on, but He has given every one of us the equality in being the best we can, in leading a virtuous life. Most importantly, He has bestowed us His mercy all the same no matter how out of line mankind might be. Undoubtedly, God is most virtuous of all indeed."



Sule Yilmaz

Virtue, the Way of God

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Life is a journey embedded with rights and wrongs, and mankind is the product of these preferences. Thus, we are what we breathe, what we observe and perceive. We are what we know and acknowledge and we are what we give. Hence, life is fair, what we plant is what we harvest. Thereupon, we should aim to live a life led by virtues, virtue modeled after God. In particular a virtue that recognizes that there are differences between individuals and a virtue that accepts and respects these distinctions. It is a fact of life; we may not breathe the same air, observe or perceive an object in the same sense and yet through virtue we embrace God's creation regardless of distinctions, differences, and appearances. Only then we may be truly virtuous.

Undoubtedly, virtue is being modest, virtue is having a lot to say but saying it when necessary, and virtue is thinking before speaking; virtue is self-awareness, virtue is self-discipline, virtue is respecting, virtue is giving and virtue is loving all. Clearly, virtue is a good thing. As a matter of fact, it is through virtue we become better individuals. However, virtue without the essence of being God-centered lacks meaning and worth. Only then life becomes more meaningful. Only then people prefer peace over war. Only then we believe in the equality of all. Only then we grasp the meaning of just versus unjust and only then the world can become a better place for mankind.

Consequently, we all have the option to lead a life through the guidance of virtue. Choosing a life led by virtue not only benefits us, it is an asset for humanity. Clearly, both world wars were affected by fascism, which advocates holding one race above another in favoring the ideology of superiority as opposed to virtue. Accordingly, world powers need to acknowledge that war is not the solution to solving any sort of problem. To have power over another person or nation does not mean to be entitled to acting freely, while working in alliance with other people is the characteristic of a virtuous identity.

Moreover, differentiating between a white and a black man offers us nothing but a dilemma. Who is to say, one is better than the other? Certainly, we are equal in the presence of God and that's all that matters. Superiority is not in the color of one's skin. It is constituted by the presence of the virtue of God in one's God.

Ultimately, if those that are constructing the future societies persist on neglecting the importance of virtuous identity, they shall not last long. Past centuries are the proof of this. Hence, in order for the world to be a peaceful and a better place, mankind needs to adopt this value of virtue coming from God and to recognize that superiority can be solely achieved the practice of virtue as intended by God.



Boboli Gardens, Florence